

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7118

INFO DIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, SP

SUBJ: VISIT TO SPAIN OF THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

REF: USDAO TAIPEI DTG 110900Z AUG 76

1. GEN. LAI MING-TANG, FORMER CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA, VISITED MADRID AUG 30-SEPT 5 AS PART OF AN
"UNOFFICIAL" ROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP. (HE STATED REPEATEDLY WHILE
HERE THAT HE WAS TRAVELING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. IN FACT THIS
APPEARED TO BE A GOOD WILL/FACT-FINDING EFFORT ON BEHALF
OF HIS GOVERNMENT.)

2. IN MADRID, LAI CALLED ON THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (LT. GEN.
SANTIAGO), THE THREE SERVICE MINISTERS, THE CHIEF OF THE HIGH
GENERAL STAFF, AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM.
FROM WHAT HE TOLD CHIEF JUSMG (A CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE), HE WENT
AWAY SATISFIED THAT THERE IS REASONABLY GOOD RAPPORT BETWEEN THE
SPANISH AND THE ROC AND THAT THE SPANISH MILITARY, FOR THEIR
PART, ARE INTERESTED IN PROMOTING THE RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE
LIMITS IMPOSED BY SPANISH/PRC RELATIONS.

3. LAI TOOK THE LINE WITH CHIEF JUSMG THAT THE SPANISH MILITARY
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LEADERS HERE HAD CLAIMED THEY CONSIDER SPANISH RECOGNITION OF

THE PRC A MISTAKE TO WHICH FRANCO WAS LED BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO. THEY HAD INDICATED THEY WERE DIRECTING A CONSIDERABLE SURVEILLANCE EFFORT TO THE PRC MISSION, WHICH THEY REGARDED AS A PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE MISSION'S PROCLIVITY TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROPAGANDA AND THE INCITING OF SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. IN SOME CONTRAST, THE CHIEF OF THE ROC'S CULTURAL CENTER HERE IN MADRID TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE DID NOT REGARD THIS PRC EMBASSY AS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND FROM WHAT WE HAVE GATHERED THE PRC EMBASSY HAS SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF ITS EFFORT INVEIGHING AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

4. THE MILITARY LEADERS WITH WHOM HE SPOKE STRESSED TO LAI THEIR STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION, THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE KING, SOME CONCERN ABOUT SPANISH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, SATISFACTION WITH THE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND RESERVATIONS (PRINCIPALLY ON THE PART OF THE SPANISH ARMY) ABOUT NATO MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN.

5. LAI SAID THE SPANISH MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN INCREASING TOURISM AND TRADE BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE ROC, INDICATING GOS SATISFACTION WITH THE ROC TRADE MISSION IN MADRID.

6. LAI DID NOT REQUEST ANY ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY MADRID DURING HIS VISIT TO SPAIN.
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